

REMARKS

The present paper is being presented in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed February 28, 2005, and is being submitted with a request for a one-month extension of time and an appropriate small entity fee.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 12 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph for failing to comply with the enablement requirement insofar as the specification is silent regarding a barrier layer comprising a metallic material.

The Applicant urges that the specification ought to be comprised of all information disclosed, whether in the detailed description, the drawings, or the claims – as originally filed. While claims 7 and 12 do not appear to have corresponding text in the section of the specification identified as the detailed description, the Examiner ought to give weight to the application as a whole as originally filed in supporting the claimed subject matter encompassed by the application. Thus, the Examiner should consider the claims originally filed as providing support for the amendment to the specification proposed herein.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6004900 to O'Brien, III.

Claims 1-5, 7-10 and 12-18 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,004,900 to O'Brien in view of USPN 5,128,311 to Egashira et al.

In view of the amendments made to claims 1 and 13, applicant believes these rejections are no longer meritorious.

To begin with, O'Brien teaches the a process for the formation of a decorated composite article comprising building a composite article formed of a plurality of layers of composite material and infiltrating the layers with resin containing titanium dioxide which, following curing of the article, renders the surfaces of the article ready for application of visually distinct sublimation print.

In applicant's invention as now recited in claim 1, the decorated layer is a distinct layer from the build-up of composite layers in that it is separated by a barrier layer. Furthermore, the resulting composite article in applicant's invention comprises "cured resin within and around all of said layers".

This resulting structure is not possible with O'Brien since that patent teaches application of a decorative image AFTER the composite article is formed and the resin has been cured.

Neither O'Brien alone or O'Brien in combination with Egashira et al. teach applicant's invention as now claimed.

In applicant's invention as now recited in claim 13, the decorative image is on the barrier layer, which comprises one surface carrying an optically light pigment, and which further is supported on the composite laminate material in

such a manner as the surface bearing the optically light pigment inhibits absorption of resin.

This resulting structure is not possible with O'Brien since that patent teaches application of a decorative image AFTER the composite article is formed and the resin has been cured.

Neither O'Brien alone or O'Brien in combination with Egashira et al. teach applicant's invention as now claimed.

For all the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the and rejections imposed by the Office Action mailed February 28, 2005, and solicits allowance of the claims currently pending in this application.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of applicants,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terrell P. Lewis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terrell P. Lewis
Registration No. 29,227

343 Palos Verdes Boulevard
Unit #8
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
(310) 465-0500